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Ben Raab
Pat Quinn

THE PHANTOM™

created by LEE FALK

"STONES OF BLOOD" PART TWO

WRITTEN BY BEN RAAB
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WITH DAWN GROSZEWSKI
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BASED ON A DESIGN BY JOHN CASSADAY

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
DR. BRYAN SHEDDEN

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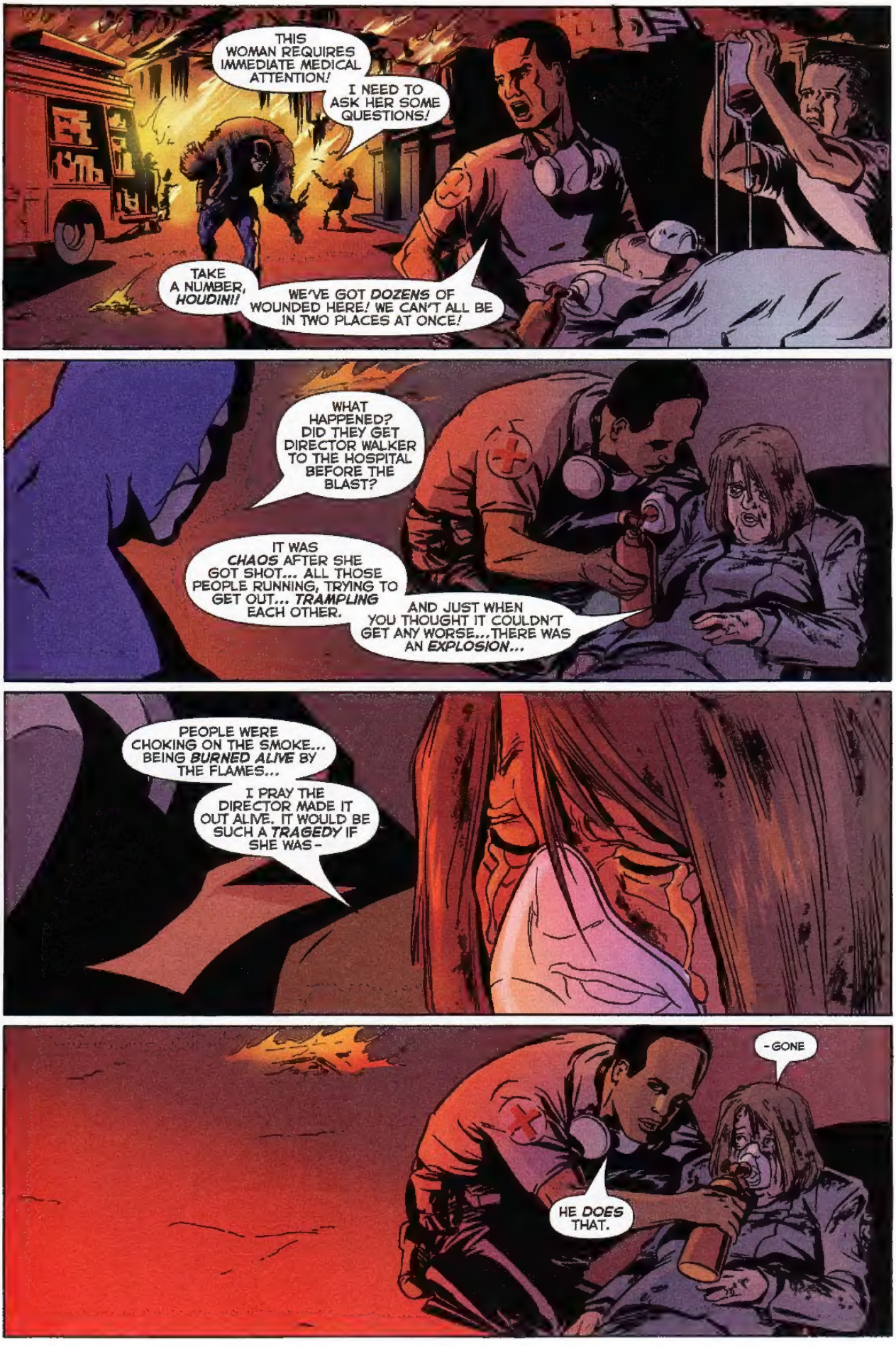
MAWITAAN, THE CAPITAL OF BANGALLA...
WATCH IT! ONE SIDE! COMING THROUGH!
IS THE GUY ON THAT HORSE WEARING A COSTUME?
YEAH! AND HE'S NOT STOPPING!
HEY! THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA!
NOT TO ME.
WHOA, HERO!
NO...

DIANA?! KIT?! HELOISE?!
I'M LOOKING FOR U.N. DIRECTOR DIANA PALMER-WALKER, AND HER TWO CHILDREN, KIT AND HELOISE.
IS... IS THAT THEM?
UM, WELL -
HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE DEAD, MISTER!
UH... MISTER...?

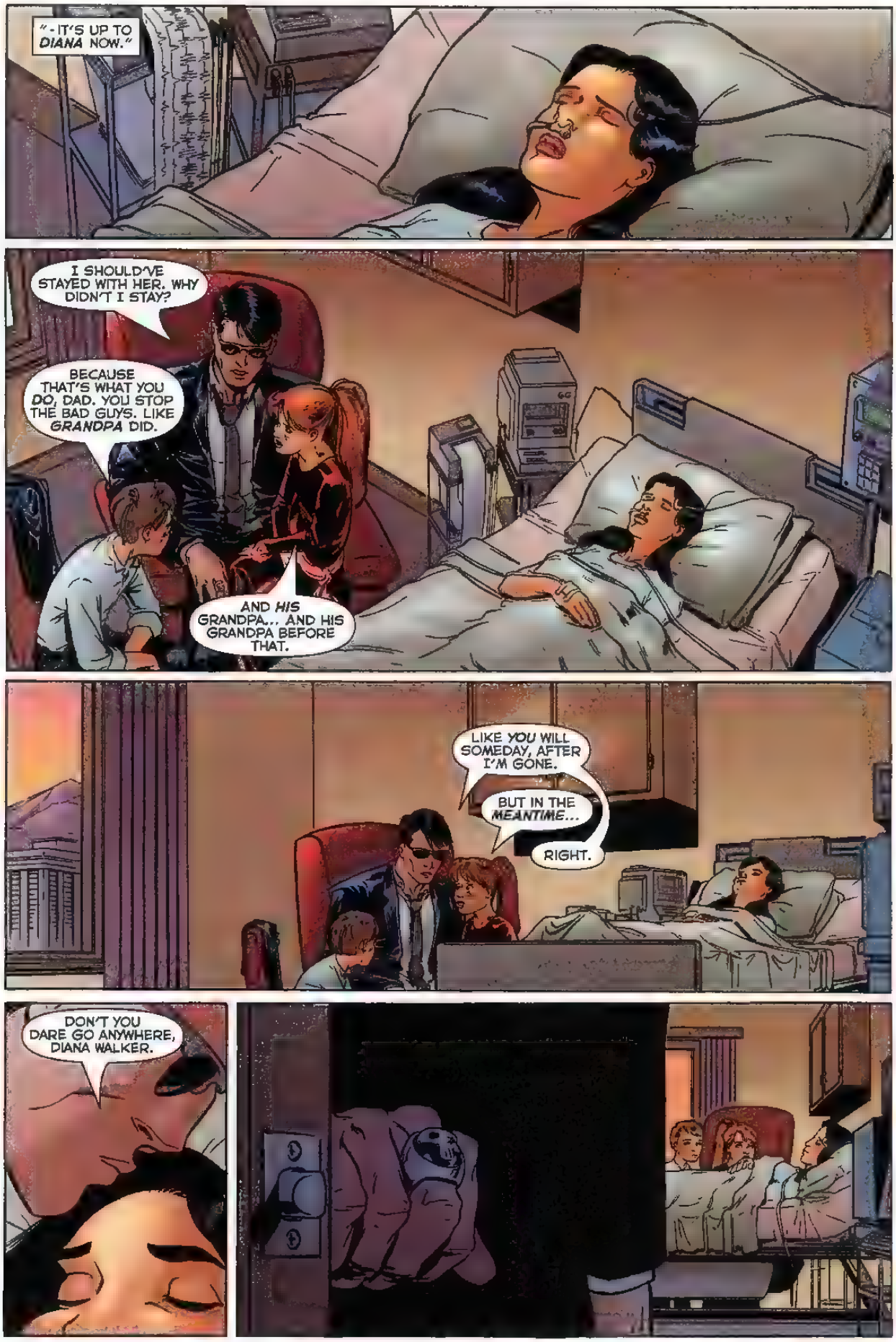
DIANA! KIT! HELOISE!
ARE YOU IN HERE?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
IS SOMEBODY THERE...?
H-HELP... P-PLEASE... I CAN'T M-MOVE...
MY LEGS... I THINK THEY'RE CRUSHED...
YOU CAN'T LIFT THAT ALONE. SHOULDN'T YOU CALL FOR HELP?
TEN TIGERS GOT :NNNH: NOTHIN' ON ME, MISS...

NNNAAAAH!
HOPE YOU'RE AS FAST AS YOU ARE STRONG.
LIKE LIGHTNING. WHY?
HOO BOY.
THOOM!


THIS WOMAN REQUIRES IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION!
I NEED TO ASK HER SOME QUESTIONS!
TAKE A NUMBER, HOUDINI!
WE'VE GOT DOZENS OF WOUNDED HERE! WE CAN'T ALL BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE!
WHAT HAPPENED? DID THEY GET DIRECTOR WALKER TO THE HOSPITAL BEFORE THE BLAST?
IT WAS CHAOS AFTER SHE GOT SHOT... ALL THOSE PEOPLE RUNNING, TRYING TO GET OUT... TRAMPLING EACH OTHER.
AND JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE... THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION...
PEOPLE WERE CHOKING ON THE SMOKE... BEING BURNED ALIVE BY THE FLAMES...
I PRAY THE DIRECTOR MADE IT OUT ALIVE. IT WOULD BE SUCH A TRAGEDY IF SHE WAS -
-GONE
HE DOES THAT.

MAWITAAN CITY HOSPITAL
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION.
CONSIDER HIM *AUTHORIZED*, MEN. MR. WALKER HERE IS A *FRIEND*.
THAT'S *MY WIFE* IN THERE!
DAD!
YES, SIR, *PRESIDENT LUAGA*, SIR!
KIT, I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS.
SECURITY SHOULD'VE BEEN *TIGHTER* DURING THE CONFERENCE...
I DON'T BLAME YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I BLAME THOSE *TERRORISTS* WHO DID THIS TO HER.

HOW'S SHE DOING?
STUPID DOCTORS WON'T TELL US ANYTHING. JUST BECAUSE WE'RE *KIDS*, THEY THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE THE *TRUTH*.
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW *TOUGH* WE REALLY ARE.
NO... THEY DON'T...
AH, MR. WALKER... GOOD.
TELL ME YOU *SAVED* HER, DOCTOR.
SHE'S *STABLE*. FOR THE MOMENT...
IT WAS A DIFFICULT PROCEDURE. THE SNIPER'S SHOT WAS *SPOT ON*, AND LODGED DEEP INSIDE HER CHEST.
WE WERE ABLE TO EXTRACT THE BULLET AND SEAL THE WOUND. BUT THERE WAS A LOT OF BLOOD LOSS. HER HEART IS STRUGGLING TO COMPENSATE, BUT IN ITS *WEAKENED* CONDITION?
WELL... WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN ON OUR END.
LIFE OR *DEATH* -


"-IT'S UP TO DIANA NOW."
I SHOULD'VE STAYED WITH HER. WHY DIDN'T I STAY?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU DO, DAD. YOU STOP THE BAD GUYS. LIKE GRANDPA DID.
AND HIS GRANDPA... AND HIS GRANDPA BEFORE THAT.
LIKE YOU WILL SOMEDAY, AFTER I'M GONE.
BUT IN THE MEANTIME...
RIGHT.
DON'T YOU DARE GO ANYWHERE, DIANA WALKER.

...AFTER TWELVE STRAIGHT HOURS, THE MAWITAAN FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS FINALLY DOUSED THE BLAZE AT THE CAPITOL BUILDING-
-AN INFERNO SPARKED MOMENTS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON DIANA PALMER-WALKER, DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS' HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION...
...AN OUTSPOKEN PROPONENT OF THE CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION TEN-THIRTEEN... A PLAN FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST TERRORIST-HARBORING NATIONS THAT SEEMS TO HAVE RAISED THE IRE OF THOSE IT CONDEMNS.
AND NOW BANGALLA FINDS ITSELF CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.
SOURCES IN THE LUAGA ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE WORK OF NOTORIOUS TARAKIMO REVOLUTIONARY ALI GUTAALE. ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED MEN...
BUT THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS-
-IS WHY?

FASTER, DOGS!
YOUR SACRED STONES ARE GOING TO BUILD US A NEW NATION!
HURRY, OLAK! YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT THEY DO WHEN WE ARE TOO SLOW!
I'M :NHH: TRYING, TULA! BUT IT'S :HNH: TOO HEAVY!
OLAK!
:UHHH!:
TSK TSK TSK -
- THIS WILL NEVER DO...

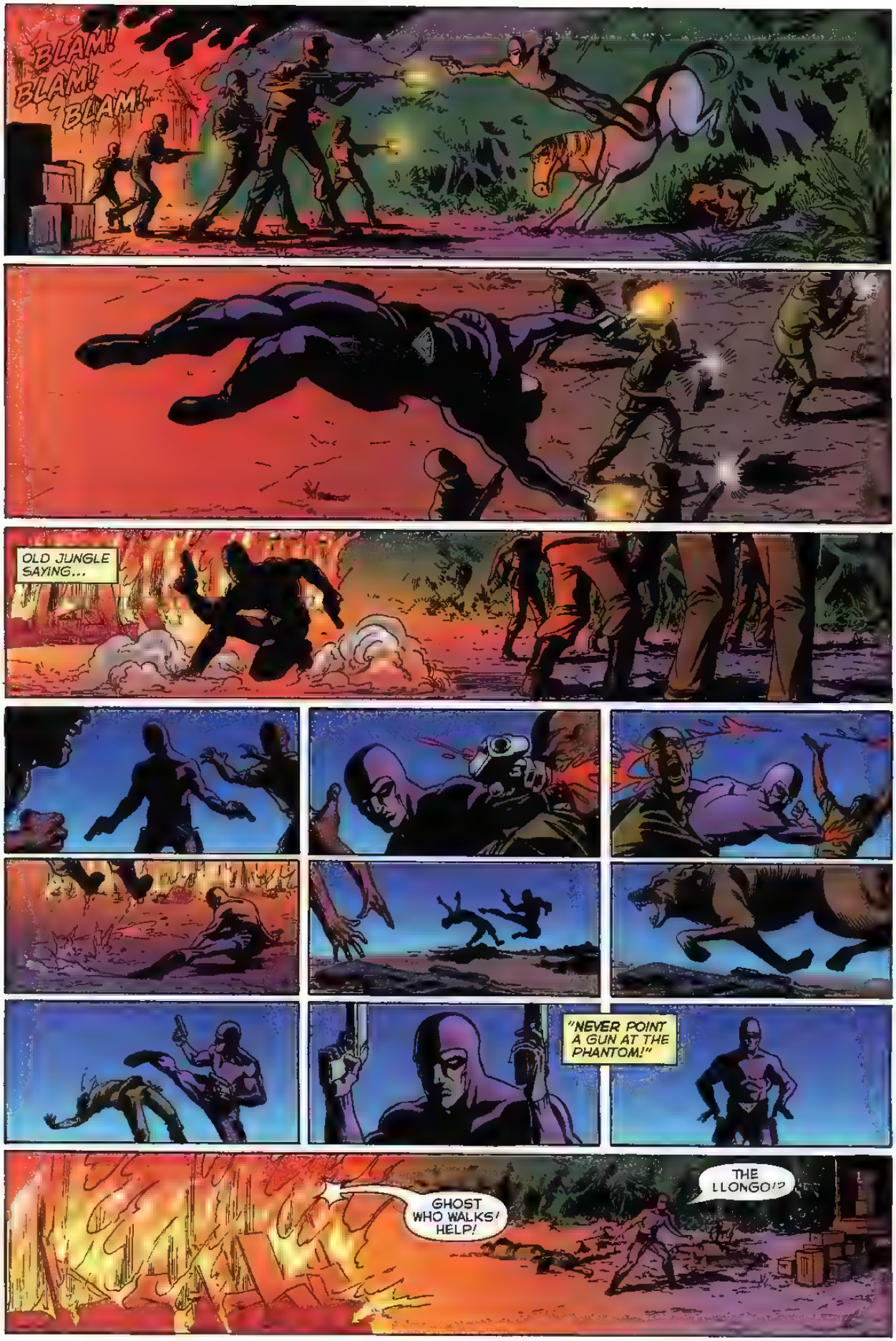
I CAN SEE THAT. HE LOOKS TIRED... WEAK...
DEEP IN THE MINES! HE BRINGS YOU MANY, MANY DIAMONDS!
PLEASE! DO NOT KILL MY HUSBAND! HE WORKS NIGHT AND DAY FOR YOU!
BLAM!
TULA!?!
PERHAPS THAT WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR RESOLVE.
YOU CURSE YOURSELF WITH THESE DEEDS, OUTLANDER. THERE WILL BE A RECKONING.
THE GHOST WHO WALKS WILL HAVE HIS VENGEANCE.
LET HIM COME, OLD MAN. FOR WHEN HE ARRIVES --
-- GHOSTS ARE ALL HE WILL FIND.

"I SWEAR TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF PIRACY... GREED... CRUELTY... AND INJUSTICE."
"AND MY SONS... AND THEIR SONS-"
"-SHALL FOLLOW ME..."

IF THESE STONES ARE *ILLEGAL* OUTSIDE BANGALLA–
–WHAT COUNTRY WOULD VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW TO PURCHASE THEM?
ANY OF THE SO-CALLED *'ROGUE NATIONS'* THAT HAVE GRANTED US ASYLUM WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR. ENOUGH TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR *COUP*.
BUT, ALI... HAVE WE NOT DEALT WITH SUCH *DEVILS* ENOUGH? THEIR REPUTATION *TAINTS* OUR CAUSE IN THE WORLD'S EYES.
A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO FINALLY WREST CONTROL OF TARAKIMO FROM THE *WARLORDS* WHO OPPRESS OUR PEOPLE.
NATIONS ARE BUILT UPON *TWO* FOUNDATIONS, MY FRIEND.
SACRIFICE... AND *BLOOD*...
ALI! COME QUICK! THE VILLAGERS!
HAVE THEY FINALLY GROWN THE SPINE TO *REVOLT?*
WORSE!
"THEY'RE *PRAYING!*"

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
SUPERSTITIOUS JUNGLE NONSENSE ABOUT "FLAMES OF ETERNITY"... AND A "MAN WHO CANNOT DIE"...
IF THEY WANT FIRE-
WOOSH
DUN...DUDDA DUN...
DUN...DUDDA DUN...
DRUMS.
DUN...DUDDA DUN...
MORE JUNGLE NONSENSE?

YOU THREE INVESTIGATE.
LET US SEE HOW IMMORTAL THIS MAN IS *WITHOUT* HIS HEAD.
I THINK I *SEE* HIM!
WHERE?! I ONLY SEE *SHADOWS!*
JUST *SHOOT*, FOOL!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
SOUNDS LIKE THEY GOT HIM!
DOESN'T IT?
PROTECT ALI!


BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
OLD JUNGLE SAYING...
"NEVER POINT A GUN AT THE PHANTOM!"
GHOST WHO WALKS! HELP!
THE LLONGO!?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM?
NO WORSE THAN WE'RE GOING TO DO TO YOU!
KRAK!
KRASH
GOT ME QUAKIN' IN MY LONG JOHNS, SPORT.

HURRY SKOFF, PHANTOM..
WOOF! WOOF!
WHAT, DEVIL? YOU FIND SOMETHING?
GOOD BOY!
HUSTLE, PEOPLE! NO TIME TO WASTE!

COME ON, LITTLE ONE -
- NO LAYING DOWN ON THE JOB!
Y'KNOW, UZAKO... PULLING PEOPLE FROM BURNING BUILDINGS IS STARTING TO BECOME SOMETHING OF A HABIT.
SAME THING THAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE WHO MESSES WITH MY FRIENDS.
YOU HAVE SAVED OUR PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN, PHANTOM. BUT WHAT SHALL BECOME OF THE OUTLANDERS?
WOE TO THEM.

GOING SOMEWHERE?
KRRRSH!
YOU'VE HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
WHAP!
-CNNH!-

SO THIS IS THE GREAT ALI GUTAALE? LOOK MORE LIKE A TWO-BIT BULLY TO ME!
PERHAPS YOU'D SEE BETTER WITHOUT YOUR MASK! WHERE I STAND, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO BULLIES OTHERS!
YOU AND THOSE UNITED NATIONS COWARDS! HIDING BEHIND LAWS AND LEGISLATION LIKE FRIGHTENED CHILDREN!
TEND TO YOUR OWN LANDS! LEAVE US TO OUR WAYS! YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND! IN MY COUNTRY, YOU EITHER KILL OR DIE!
IF LAWS MUST BE BROKEN FOR CHANGE TO COME... IF PEOPLE MUST SUFFER FOR A BETTER LIFE... SO BE IT!
RATIONALIZE ALL YOU WANT, ALI. MURDER IS STILL MURDER, NO MATTER WHAT THE CAUSE.
NOTHING JUSTIFIES THE DEATHS OF INNOCENTS.
THAT IS YOUR OPINION, PHANTOM -
-THIS IS MINE!
GAAH!

FAREWELL, HERO.
WE WILL NOT MEET AGAIN.
00:04
DEET... DEET... DEET...
DEET... DEET... DEET...
DEET... DEET... DEET...
THE DIAMONDS...

BOOOM!
-OW!-
SHARP

TAKE THIS TERRORIST SCUM BACK TO JUNGLE PATROL HQ.
THEY CAN JOIN THEIR FRIENDS IN STIR UNTIL THE EXTRADITION ORDERS ARRIVE.
YES SIR, CAPTAIN MURANO!
LOOKS LIKE THE COMMANDER WON THIS BATTLE.
YEAH, BUT ALI IS STILL WINNING THE WAR, COLONEL WORUBU. HE'S GONE UNDERGROUND. DISAPPEARED. AGAIN.
A TEMPORARY SETBACK.
ONCE RESOLUTION TEN-THIRTEEN PASSES NO SAFE HAVENS WILL REMAIN FOR TERRORISTS.
EVEN ALI GUTAALE WILL HAVE NOWHERE TO HIDE...
Compliments of the Commander

...AND THERE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PAIR OF EYES IN THE WORLD...
RISE AND SHINE, SLEEPY-HEAD.
K-KIT?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS BEING AT THE CAPITOL... THERE WAS A LOUD BANG...
TERRORISTS TRIED TO ASSASSINATE YOU, MOM.
BUT DAD STOPPED THEM. LIKE ALWAYS.
CLIK
WHAT ABOUT TEN-THIRTEEN? HAS IT BEEN PUT TO A VOTE? DID IT PASS?
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, HOW COULD IT NOT?
...BOWING TO PRESSURE FROM ITS MORE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS JUST VETOED RESOLUTION TEN-THIRTEEN. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESPERSON-
-"SANCTIONS ARE TANTAMOUNT TO GLOBAL ABANDONMENT. THE LAST THING WE WISH TO FOSTER IS THE CLIMATE OF HOPELESSNESS AND ISOLATION IN REGIONS ALREADY FRAUGHT WITH DESPAIR-"
COWARDS.
CLIK

DIANA, DEAR... YOU ARE NOT ONLY THE *STUBBORNEST* PERSON I KNOW-
EVEN IF I HAVE TO HUNT HIM DOWN *MYSELF*, I WILL LOCK THAT SCUM ALI GUTAALE AWAY SOMEDAY AND SWALLOW THE DAMN KEY.
I *SWEAR*, KIT...
-YOU ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT THE ABSOLUTE *BRAVEST*.
HEY, I LEARNED FROM THE *BEST*.
AND *THERE* THEY GO AGAIN...
THE END

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— COMIX VIEW

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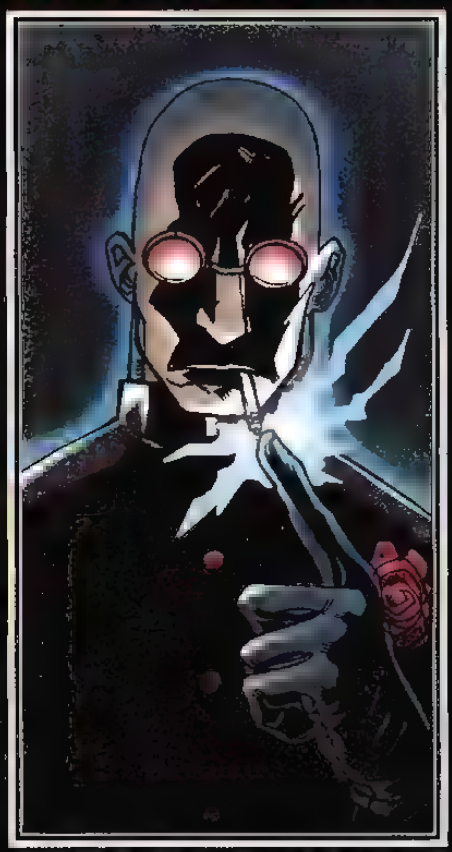

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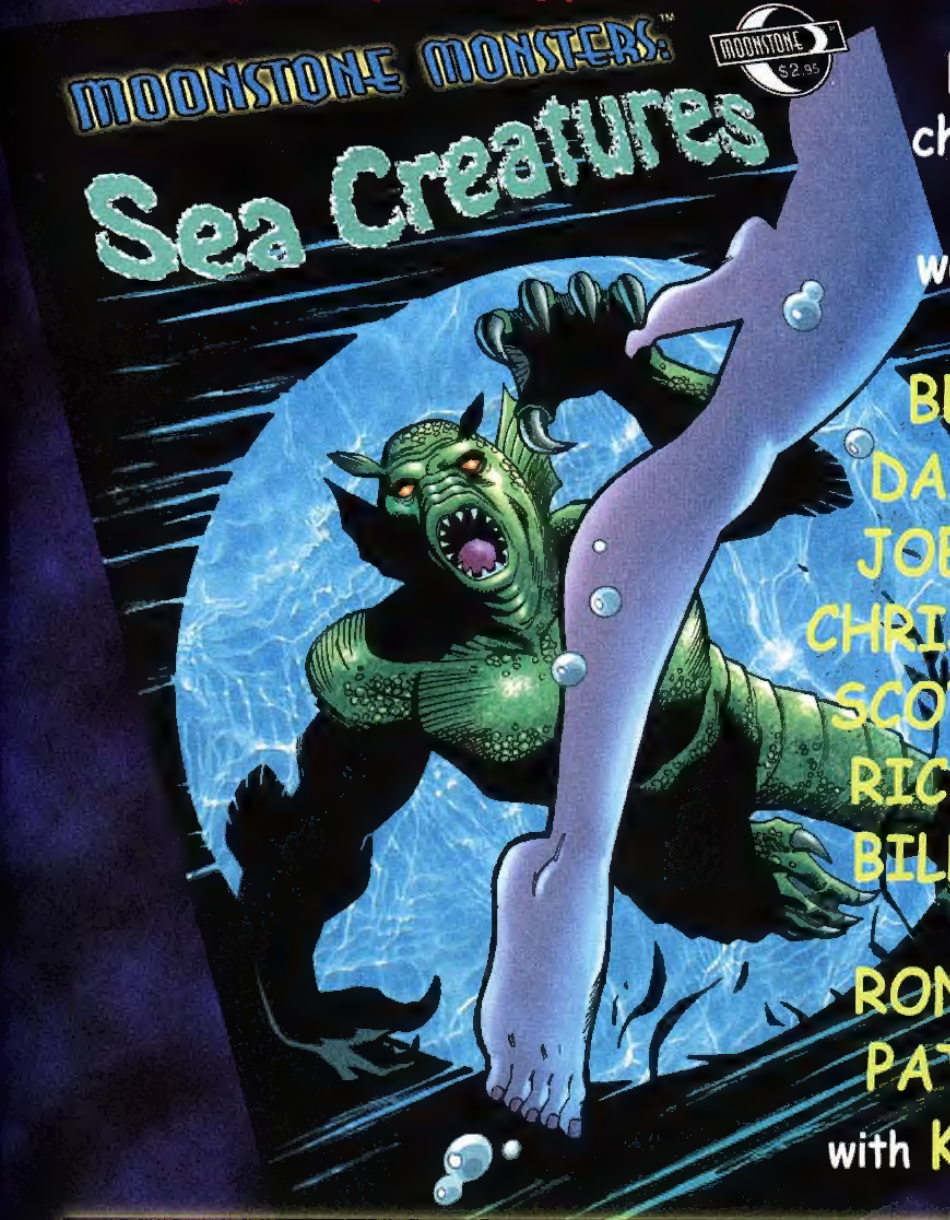

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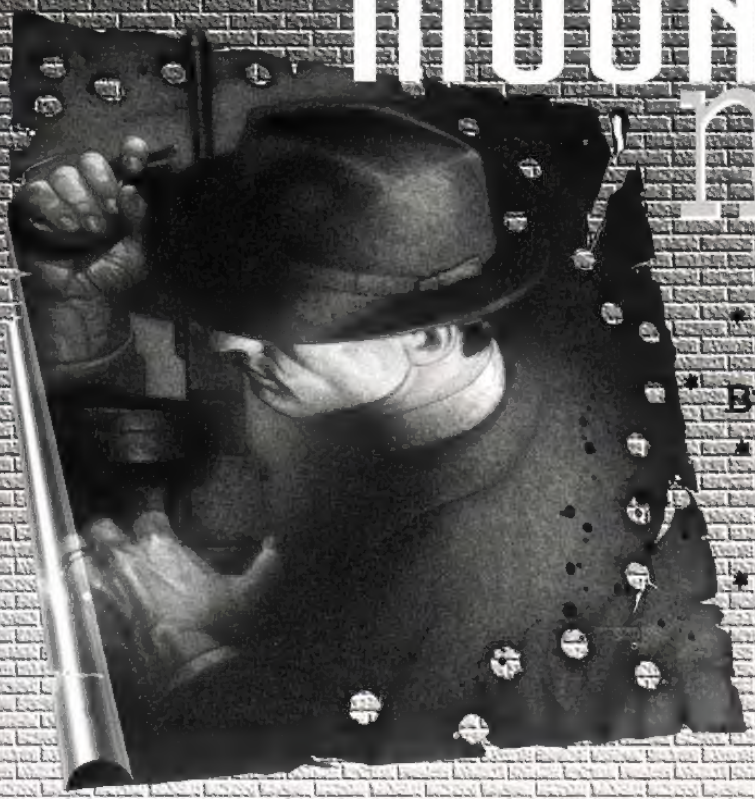

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But I am too depleted to fight him. That leaves me only one option.
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I take control of his mind, and then his body. Our union fills me with his fierce, growing in strength until the dawn of our joining rips apart his soul to be devoured by my hunger.

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